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Office of
Communities

Commission for Children & Young People



Ref: C67657

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Dear AT

I am responding to your letter of 15th November to the Commission for Children and Young People about an out of school care worker charged with indecency offences and the copy of your letter referred to the Office of Communities by the Chief Executive of the Office of Education.

I understand that these charges have not yet been heard. Any person with charges for these offences is subject to a full risk assessment under the Working With Children Check if he or she seeks child-related employment. A person convicted of these offences is prohibited from working with children.

However, as you have seen, a person with no history of offending will not be identified by a Working With Children Check. For this reason, the Commission for Children and Young People provides training and resources to help organisations take action to keep the children in their care safe. The "Child Safe" program encourages management practices like:

- supervision and support for staff
- clear guidance to staff, parents and children, about what staff conduct is acceptable and what to do when staff conduct is not acceptable
- identification of risks to children in the programs offered
- development of strategies that reduce the identified risks.

The Commission for Children and Young People would be glad to invite the operators of Caringbah Public School After School Care program to one of its free training programs or to access its Child Safe resources. The Child Safe resources are published on the Commission's website at www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/working/safefriendly.cfm . The 2012 Child Safe training program will be published on this site in late January 2012.

If you would like more information about this, please contact Ms Lisa Purves, the Commission's Manager, Child Safe Compliance on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Megan Mitchell
Commissioner
15 December 2011